

Idaho Energy Buzz

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Learn How to Make Money Through Renewable Energy

By Michael Keckler, public information officer, Idaho Department of Water Resources

The October version of this column focused on an event planned next month in Boise that could open new revenue streams for rural Idaho. How? Through clean energy production.

The Idaho Energy Buzz is revisiting the issue because time is running out to take part in a unique opportunity to learn more about this promising industry.

The Harvesting Clean Energy conference **January 29-30, 2007** in Boise provides a local forum to learn from renewable energy pioneers about what it takes to build and operate a profitable project.

While there is tremendous potential for renewable energy development in Idaho, locating and utilizing the necessary technical expertise and the financial resources can be time consuming and discouraging.

The conference will feature workshops and lectures on wind power, biofuels, biopower, geothermal, and remote solar. There are a number of federal and state grants and loans available for rural clean energy projects. Experts will be on hand to help you assess what is realistic, how to make your project is “funding-friendly”, and where to go for help.

More than a dozen workshops are planned on everything from tapping Idaho’s geothermal potential, to learning how Midwest farmers and rural communities are pooling resources to build wind projects and multi-million dollar biofuel plants. In fact, one workshop focuses on techniques for generating your own electricity, and making your own fuel right on your own farm!

Nearly 600 people participated in the last ***Harvesting Clean Energy*** conference held last winter in Spokane. Another large crowd is expected at the Boise conference and space at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel is limited. Those who register before December 29, 2006 can take advantage of the early bird rates.

More information about the *Harvesting Clean Energy* conference, including on-line registration is available at: www.harvestcleanenergy.org

This is your chance to become part of a promising industry bringing newfound prosperity to rural Idaho, and greater energy independence to our country.

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